

XXXVII.

*A Letter from the Rev. Stephen Hales D D.
& F. R. S. to the President, serving to
inclose a Letter to him from Walter Bow-
man Esq; concerning an Earthquake felt
at East Molesey in Surry, on March 14.
1749-50.*

S I R;

Teddington, April 11. 1750.

Read May 3. 1750. **I** HAVE here inclosed a Letter from my
Neighbour Mr. *Bowman*, at *Molesey*,
near *Hampton-Court*; whose Veracity and Abili-
ties to make the proper Observations, I can depend
on. I well remember the extraordinary Redness,
&c. in the Sky the Evening before, which he
mentions. The Shock which he felt in a Chair,
was, as I guess, in *Italy*; he having travell'd much
abroad. I am,

S I R,

Your obliged humble Servant,

Stephen Hales.

Reverend Sir,

East Molesey, April 8. 1750.

BEING informed that you have made some
Observations on the late Earthquakes, as of late
I have not been at leisure to wait on you, I take
this Opportunity of informing you, that the third
Shock

Shock in these Parts is past some Weeks ago: So that the fearful Expectations, which have unmann'd the dastardly *Londoners*, have no other Foundation than this, that, in all Events, *Englishmen* are still after the Fair.

The AUTHOR of NATURE, for our Sins, may alarm us with a fourth, and four hundred more, if His Wisdom pleases; but, as to a third, so little do our guilty Consciences, or visionary Monitors, know of the Matter, that Providence has prevented the Fears of the one, and antedated the Predictions of the other. For, without any regular Connexion with the Moon, it happen'd about 7 Days after the second Shock, on the 14th of *March*, I believe, before 4 o' Clock in the Morning; when full awake, I felt my House, for a Second or two, shake, like a Spaniel just come out of Water. My Bell on the Stair-case rung only one Twitch. I rose, look'd out, and saw the Moon shine bright, without one Cloud, or one Breath of Wind; and, finding none of my Servants disturb'd, I return'd to sound and quiet Sleep.

It was exactly of the same Nature with the second Shock, a Shudder of the House from Top to Bottom; so that I neither mistook the one nor the other for an Explosion of Mr. *Norman's* Horse-Powder-Mills, wherein, you know, he never works above 40 Pounds at a time. Here I felt nothing like an Explosion, but a Concussion, which any Man may conceive, from his Hand shaking a Bed upon Casters, if we may compare great things to small. Nor can I describe the second Shock, felt also in Bed, compared with this third, otherwise than by the

the Shudder of a Horse after swimming, more strong than that of a Dog; while the same Bell sounded all in Confusion, as if it had been pack'd and toss'd in a Hamper.

The 13th of *March*, in the Evening about Sunset, the Sky was dreadfully charged with a deep Purple mixed with Red, which, from the West, tinged the Clouds by the South quite to the East; and was succeeded by a clear effulgent Crimson or Pink-Colour, luminous, as deep, as ever Eye pierced into the azure Blue.

I neither have met with, nor heard of, any Person, who felt this second Shake which I have described. But, if any Memorials are to be preserved of these several Shocks, all which I have felt most distinctly, I think this ought not to be forgot; because I do not apprehend it to have been strong enough to have waked any Person, nor to alarm even any one awake in Bed. And as for those who were up, and on foot, I do not think they could have perceived it, if I may judge by such a one, which I once felt by a single Start of my Chair, without knowing what it was, till I compar'd Notes with my more experienc'd Neighbours.

To conclude, this ought not to exempt us from Fear, but to awaken our Trust in PROVIDENCE; since Nature works, and few perceive it; and when she works, whom she has a Mind to save are safe, and those she intends to destroy cannot escape. Within ourselves we find Strength or Weakness to bear her extraordinary Touches; but to fly from them, even an Immortal cannot; since her Hand reaches over
all

[687]

all the visible and invisible World. Reverend Sir,
I am,

Your sincere Friend, and

most obedient Servant,

Walter Bowman.

XXXVIII.

*Abstract of a Letter from Mr. Pennant to
Rich. Holford Esq; Master in Chancery,
of an Earthquake felt in Flintshire, on
April 2. 1750.*

Downing, near Holywell in Flintshire, April 3. 1750.

Read May 10. 1749. **L**AST Night we were greatly alarm'd with a violent Shock of an Earthquake between 10 and 11 o' Clock. I, who was in Bed, was frequently moved up and down; and the Bed, having Casters, was removed some small Space from its proper Situation.

During the Shock, a great Noise was heard in the Air; and, some Nights before, Lights were seen in the Sky; such as were previous to the Earthquake in Town.

Thanks to Providence, no further Mischief has happen'd, than the Terror this unusual *Phenome* non occasion'd in our Family.

This Place is about two Miles from the Sea.

XXXIX.